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of the recent anti-foreign uprising shows any consciousness of its political transgressions. Until such is the case, and a new policy entered upon, dictated by goodwill and respect for others, the prospect of peace and settled order in the Far East will be a very shadowy one.

Opportunity for Arbitration. Opportunities for arbitration of international questions are constantly arising, and the new court at The Hague is likely to have plenty of business from the very start. Nor do we believe that the cases at first referred to it will be necessarily trifling ones, as has been supposed by many persons to whom the difficulties in the way of resort to arbitration have looked frightfully large. The cases going to the court will be those first arising, whether small or great interests are involved. Nor is it always easy to discriminate and say what are and what are not important questions. It has already been proposed by the Czar of Russia that the question of indemnity in the Chinese trouble be referred to the Hague court. Nobody would call this an insignificant case. Somebody has suggested that the Alaska boundary question also be put into the court's hands. And now comes the suggestion that there may be opportunity for the court to have a hand in the Nicaragua Canal question. The *Watchman* thus speaks of it:

"The suggestion is made that in case the British statesmen are not disposed to concede the right of the United States to abrogate the Bulwer-Clayton treaty without Great Britain's consent, the whole question whether or not the United States has the right to repudiate this contract might properly be submitted to the Hague tribunal of arbitration, which the United States was instrumental in creating. Moreover, since our government has formally endorsed the scheme of international arbitration advanced by the Hague Conference, and has appointed its representatives on that tribunal, it could hardly decline to permit the principles of the Hague Conference to be applied to itself. The question at issue is one that is peculiarly appropriate for the consideration of such a tribunal; it is strictly a legal one, namely, whether one party to a treaty, which, contrary to the usual custom, does not contain any provision either for amendment or abrogation, can rightfully repudiate its stipulations without the consent of the other nation with which the agreement was made."

Brevities.

. . . Of the governments to which the Berne Peace Bureau sent a copy of the resolutions of the Paris Peace Congress, those of Great Britain, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, and the Netherlands have already acknowledged the reception of the communication, the latter two expressing their appreciation of the work of the Congress.

. . . At the Spanish-American Congress which met recently in Spain, Senator Marcoartu, of Madrid, offered a resolution in favor of universal obligatory arbitration. This received the approval of the delegates of all the thirteen states represented except Chili.

. . . We join in the grief everywhere felt by the friends of peace at the sudden death of Mrs. Frederic Passy, wife of the distinguished and devoted leader of the peace movement in France. She was stricken down while he was away from home delivering an address, and died before he reached home. We extend to Mr. Passy our sincerest sympathy.

. . . The Lombard Peace Union of Milan has addressed to the government and people of Italy a powerful protest against the pillage and massacres perpetrated by the European troops in China, and asks for the speedy withdrawal of the Italian troops.

. . . Mr. Nicholas Fleva, a prominent peace worker and member of the Berne Peace Bureau, has been chosen minister plenipotentiary of Roumania at Rome. He has been twice a member of the Roumanian ministry.

. . . The Friends of Great Britain, who have always been the leaders in the movement for international arbitration and peace, have reason to feel great satisfaction that one of their number, Sir Edward Fry, a retired justice of the High Court of Appeal, has been appointed a member of the permanent international court of arbitration.

. . . The Swiss state council, composed of forty-four members, two from each canton, ratified on the third of December all of the acts of the Hague Conference except the convention concerning the laws and customs of land warfare. This was not approved on the ground that it does not permit the *levée en masse* of a people whose territory is invaded by an enemy.

. . . On the twenty-first of November the government of Portugal deposited with the Bank of England the money to pay the English stockholders of the Delagoa Bay Railway the indemnity awarded by the Swiss arbitrators, and with the American embassy in London the amount coming to the American stockholders.

. . . The Swiss Federal Council, to which was referred the Franco-Brazilian boundary dispute, rendered its decision on the first of December, giving to Brazil 252,000 square kilometres of the disputed area and to France 8,000.

. . . The twentieth century opens with the money stock of the world standing at \$11,600,000,000, the increase in thirty years being over one hundred per cent.

. . . "The effect of the vast military systems of Germany, Russia and France on the life of these people and on their civil and social institutions, such as the family, the school, literature, is evil, and only evil. It means the exhaustion of the higher forces of civilization. It means that forces which ought to make for human happiness and betterment are either not working to secure those mighty results or are directly and positively contributing to human misery and disintegration." — *President Charles F. Thawing*.

. . . *L'Accord* of Paris quotes more than forty French papers which have discussed the work of the Women's Universal Peace Alliance, most of them speaking of it in terms of the heartiest appreciation and sympathy.

. . . The treasury estimates for the next fiscal year for all purposes are \$743,374,804, of which \$113,019,044 is for the army, \$87,172,430 for the navy, \$12,461,193 for fortifications, \$1,045,750 for the military academy, and \$145,245,230 for pensions.

. . . One of the ablest of all the European journals devoted to international unity and peace is *La Vita Internazionale*, published at Milan, Italy, under the editorship of Signor E. T. Moneta.

. . . "The Madrid (Spanish-American) Congress went further than the Hague Conference by adopting a resolution in favor of making arbitration proceedings compulsory. That action is the most significant contribution during the last year to the cause of international arbitration."—*The Watchman*.

. . . A bill has passed the Senate to encourage the holding of an Interstate and West Indian Exposition in Charleston, S. C., in 1901, and appropriating \$250,000 for that purpose.

. . . In a recent address in Boston Mr. Ernest Temple Hargrove, of London, said: "We have had it dinned into us that the white man has a burden, and that his burden is a burden of duty. The trouble now is that that part of his burden which the white man seems most loath to carry is the elementary duty of minding his own business."

. . . The federation of the Australian colonies went into operation on New Year's day. The Earl of Hoptown was made the first governor-general of the federated colonies, and the pageantry which marked the occasion was participated in by scores of thousands of people.

. . . Mark Twain gives the following as the salutation of the nineteenth century to the twentieth: "I bring you the stately matron named Christendom, returning bedraggled, besmirched and dishonored from pirate-raids in Kiao-Chau, Manchuria, South Africa and the Philippines, with her soul full of meanness, her pocket full of boodle, and her mouth full of pious hypocrisies. Give her soap and a towel, but hide the looking-glass."

. . . It is reported that Lord Pauncefote is to remain indefinitely as British ambassador at Washington. So say we all. There will be peace between the two countries so long as he stays at the American capital, and we hope forever.

. . . Dr. Henson and other prominent Baptist ministers of Chicago have entered a strong protest against the introduction into Chicago University of a course on the art of war contemplated by the recent appointment of Col. H. R. Brinkerhoff to a position in the institution.

. . . "A nation's honor is never compromised by temperance or injured by forbearance. It is not served by rash counsels nor by violent impulses recklessly indulged in. It is indeed a frail and delicate possession if it cannot live in an atmosphere of peace; it is a dangerous one if it is tarnished by friendly discussion and a disposition to hearken to the voice of justice."—*Frederick R. Coudert*.

. . . On the 20th of December, by a vote of 55 to 18, the Senate ratified the Hay-Pauncefote canal treaty, as previously amended.

. . . Our government has had a statement added to the joint note of the powers to China defining the attitude of this country. But the protocol will probably prove a good deal mightier than the addendum.

. . . The Thirty Years' War caused the death of one-third of the population of Germany, about six millions of men. Napoleon the First sacrificed between five and six millions of human lives.

. . . The National Asphalt Company operating in Venezuela has gotten into some sort of trouble, and of course has called for a warship! That reminds one of what has taken place so often in the past century where English companies were operating. How soon shall we have a colony in South America?

. . . A Philippine Information Society has been formed in Boston. How they will get any accurate, timely information on what goes on in the Philippines, unless they lay a private cable to Manila, we do not exactly see.

. . . Archdeacon Farrar takes a gloomy view of the outlook in Europe, and fears that England may have to meet a combination of continental powers against her.

. . . A Transatlantic Society of America has been formed in Philadelphia, "the object of which is to bring into closer relation the peoples of the United States and the British Empire by a general strengthening of the social and commercial bonds which unite the two countries."

. . . The American Federation of Labor, at its recent meeting in St. Louis, voted unanimously in favor of the repeal of all compulsory arbitration laws now in existence.

. . . Secretary Hay has suggested to the powers the appointment of a joint commission, to sit at Washington or some other point, other than Peking, to determine the indemnity question and revise the commercial treaties with China.

. . . Mr. Stanford Newel, United States minister at The Hague, has sent a dispatch to Washington giving details of the organization of the permanent arbitration court. A fine old mansion has been secured for the bureau, admirably suited to the purpose. The foreign ministers at The Hague, who constitute the Council of Administration, met on the 8th of December and adopted their first budget, amounting to 49,500 florins. The share of the United States in this first budget is \$1640.

. . . The case of the political status of Porto Rico and the other islands recently annexed, now before the Supreme Court, is in many respects the most important one ever considered by that august tribunal. The decision is awaited with great interest by all thoughtful citizens.

. . . The Secretary of the American Peace Society, Benjamin F. Trueblood, spent most of the month of December in giving lectures in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and North Carolina. His portrayal of the growing dangers of militarism was everywhere received with great interest and sympathy.

A Song of Peace.

BY J. A. EDGERTON.

Come, sing me a song of peace,
I am tired of war;
Come, sing of the time afar,
When war shall cease.

Come, sing of love in her birth,
And prophesy
Of an era when hate shall die
From off the earth.